



APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER



Physical Address: 501 HWY 101 N | Mailing Address: PO Box 345 YACHATS, OR 97498

PH: 541-547-3565/800-735-2900 TDD

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—FRIDAY: 9AM-4PM (Closed 12N-1P)

Mayor's Message

By: [Leslie Vaaler](#)

This morning, when I glanced out the window, I was rewarded with a close-up view of the spectacular plumage of a Steller's jay. Looking further, I enjoyed a plump hopping robin, flowering purple hyacinths, and budding alders. To the west, the windblown waves looked magical. Spring is here, and hope abounds.

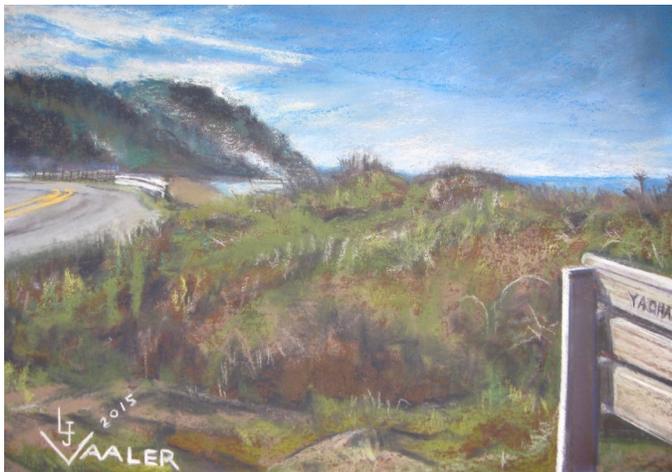
Within your city government, there is also progress. We have two new employees. Lee Elliott has begun his work as Interim City Manager, and long-time Yachats resident Katherine Guenther has begun her new job as our City Planner. For each position, we interviewed three applicants, and in each case, we were able to hire our preferred candidate

while keeping within our budget. One thoughtful community member remarked how well the two hires complement each other. Lee will benefit from Katherine's extensive knowledge of Yachats's history, while Katherine will learn lessons from Lee's experience working for other cities.

Lee comes to us from Texarkana, Texas. He has provided interim administrative leadership for municipal governments in multiple states. His past local government work includes service as a finance director, a human resources director, a public works director, a planning director, and an economic development director. Lee has previous Oregon experience, having served as Newberg's Assistant City Manager and then as its Interim City Manager. While working in

the Valley, he enjoyed trips to the Oregon coast, including several to Yachats. Lee and his dachshund Oscar are excited to be here!

Katherine has lived in Yachats since 1994. She became a licensed real estate broker in 1998, and many Yachatsians (including your mayor) met Katherine when looking for Yachats property. Katherine's real estate work, coupled with her inquis-



itive nature, has led to her impressive knowledge of Yachats's land use history, its zoning, and its potential for growth. She was a member of the Planning Commission from 2001 to 2016, serving as Commission Chair or Vice Chair for much of that period. Katherine currently chairs the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District's board and is on the board of View the Future.

In March, Council participated in this year's joint meeting with our County Commissioners. The first half of the meeting concerned Ocean View Drive. You may recall that the County plans to transfer ownership of the

road to the City, and the west lane between 2nd Street and 7th Street is now part of the 804 South Trail. The City and the County are parties to a settlement agreement that provides for so-called "mitigation funds" to be used for the 804 Trail; I am hopeful that within the next few months, all parties can agree on the final projects for which these funds will be used.

Walk west from highway 101 along the south side of Ocean View Drive and you will soon encounter a stretch without good passage for pedestrians. Though at times, there is significant traffic, the road lacks a shoulder, and the terrain falls sharply to the river below. Council will consider requesting that mitigation funds be designated for a "boardwalk" project which addresses the safety concerns and invites enjoyment. We are fortunate that award-winning landscape designer Kevin Shanley has volunteered to draw up conceptual drawings. Kevin commented: "When I consider taking on a project, I ask myself: Does this project have the potential to transform people's daily experience of the world? Can it move them the way a good book or a piece of melody can?" I look forward to sharing Kevin's drawings with the community. Should Council have enthusiasm for the project, citizen input will be very important.

Spring is here, and hope abounds. I wish you a joyous April!

Yachats City Council Vision

Our village is a place where natural resources are valued and protected, where diversity is celebrated, and where a vibrant economy and sense of community pride create and recreate a living spirit. Yachats cares not just for its citizens' basic needs but also supports them in their efforts to excel mentally, physically, artistically, and spiritually. It is a community with an enduring sense of itself.

What is the Yachats Emergency Preparedness Committee

Let's face it. Natural disasters are not something most people think about during the course of their day-to-day activities. Wildfires, ice and snowstorms, earthquakes, and even pandemics seem random and arbitrary. While we may be able to predict such events, we have no control as to when or where they occur. It is not surprising, then, that the topic likely does not come up during conversation over tea. Out of sight, out of mind; so to speak.

Consider, however, the possibility of a major earthquake on the Coast during the height of the tourist season in the middle of Summer. The population of Yachats can expand to thousands of people on any one Summer day. How do we evacuate thousands of people and provide them medical services, shelter, food, and water? What if Yachats becomes cutoff from surrounding communities? Consideration of such a possibility is not simply a mind-game focused on a "what-if" scenario. It is potentially a real-life threat with deadly serious consequences.

While it can be difficult for the mind to grasp the potential devastation that could result from a natural disaster on the Oregon Coast, we do have the capacity to think about how we might prepare as a community for a natural catastrophe. It is called resilience: the capacity to recover quickly from difficulty; the ability to recover readily from misfortune.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee of Yachats is focused on developing the capacity to recover

and rebuild as a community from such disasters. The Committee meets once monthly to consider issues such as how to protect our water resources, how to provide shelter to those displaced during a disaster, how to store food in preparation for a disaster, as well as such mundane issues as traffic control in case US-101 becomes blocked due to an accident.

The Committee works in conjunction with local law enforcement and fire resources to plan for such emergencies, but it also works in tandem with State and Federal agencies as well. For example, you are likely familiar with the brochures available that map out tsunami evacuation routes and directions to meeting locations. These are created in cooperation with the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). Other agencies that the local community works with include the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, as well as FEMA and its Emergency Management Institute.

All these groups are dedicated to developing strategies and procedures necessary for an organized response to local emergencies. Not only does the Community need to consider what is physically necessary to be in place in the face of an emergency, but also what organizational structures are necessary to be in place immediately after a disaster. For instance, most people probably haven't given much thought to the necessity of debris cleanup after a disaster, but this

becomes one of the first priorities by necessity to ensure overall safety. Specialized groups must be formed, each with an appropriate chain of command, and each with a specific focus (shelter, medical, transportation, debris recovery, communications).

As you can see, there are many elements to consider in response to a localized, large scale emergency. If you feel like you want to dig deeper into more detail regarding emergency management, or would like more resources on how to plan for emergencies on your own-

You can go online to:

WWW.YachatsOregon.org/153/emergency-preparedness

Here you can access Yachats own Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), evacuation maps, as well as information regarding pets and livestock.



Have You Heard of a Prison Book Program

By: Yachats Public Library

Lockdown. By now the word's become part of our everyday vocabulary. We've all been in it or under it, to a greater or lesser extent, for over a year. Thank goodness we've had books to keep us company and take us places we wouldn't be able to get to otherwise. Even with the library shuttered again, if we've run out of things to read on our own bookshelves, we can trade with friends, order on line or locally from Books and More, and of course use ebooks and various other technological resources I am still not up to speed on and probably never will be.

Maybe the lockdown experience is part of the reason the Prison Book Program got my attention when I saw it mentioned recently. Based in Quincy, MA, the organization is run entirely by volunteers, just like the Yachats Library. Its sole purpose is to provide free books to prisoners, in order to improve their lives and reduce the likelihood of their return to the prison system. The program serves more than 10,000 inmates a year in prisons across the country. There are many dozens more through-

out the United States.

Prisons do have their own libraries, but as you can imagine, their collections tend not to be extensive. Most prisons do not allow family and friends to mail books to inmates. Books must come from a bookstore, publisher, online retailer, or program like the PBP. One beauty of the Prison Book Program is that it gives prisoners the opportunity to request specific books, for free. On Amazon, donors can find the PBP's wish list of books that have been requested. Purchases made from the list are sent directly to the PBP.

The wish list is intriguing. Besides subject matter you might expect, like basic criminal law, trade skills, religion, dictionaries, and GED study guides, some of the requested nonfiction works hint at a range of lively, curious minds among those serving time. Among the titles: *The Art of the Handwritten Note*, *So You Want to Work on a Boat*, *In Search of Ancient Ireland*, *The Dream Interpretation Handbook*, *Egyptian My-*

thology, *The Herbal Apothecary*, and, poignantly, *101 Ways to be a Long-Distance Super-Dad ...or Mom, Too!*

The PBP serves another purpose, perhaps equally important. Its website introduces readers to issues surrounding the American prison system and the role of education in reforming it. If you visit www.prisonbookprogram.org, you will find artwork, poetry, essays, book reviews, and thank-you notes all produced by prisoners. Here's where the impact of the PBP really becomes vivid, through the voices of individual inmates. One prisoner wrote in part, "My love for books was born in prison." Another's poem included the verse "I can choose to grow in here/ like a mushroom in the dark./ I can turn my tiny cell/ into Shakespeare in the Park."

Books! What would ANY of us do without them?



A Message From Public Works

Beginning April 13, 2021 Yachats Public Works will have a contractor in town upgrading seven wastewater manholes. The streets affected by this work are *King St.*, *Pontiac St.*, *Green Hill Drive*, *Lily Ct.* and *Gender Drive*. There may be intermittent closures of these streets and Public Works would like to thank the public for their patience during this upgrade process.

The work being done will reduce the amount of ground water leaking into the wastewater system, thus reducing treatment costs and extending the life of the wastewater treatment system.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 541-547-3565

Thank you,
Yachats Public Works



Remember to receive City communications, please subscribe (or unsubscribe) by going to www.YACHATSOREGON.org and clicking on the Notify Me button.

Opportunity to Provide Input on Protecting Our Water

The City of Yachats will be holding a public meeting via Zoom on April 27 at 11 am. This meeting is a chance for community members to provide input on our draft Drinking Water Protection Plan.

The plan identifies potential risks to our drinking water sources, outlines strategies to mitigate these risks, and describes actions for addressing water shortage emergencies. Keeping our drinking water sources clean and safe is essential to protect public health and secure the future of our community and surrounding ecosystems.

At the April 27 meeting, we will discuss the major elements of the draft Drinking Water Protection Plan. Community members will have a chance to ask questions and provide feedback. This is the second public meeting on this topic. The first, in September 2020, helped us gather input on potential risks, and we were

pleased with the widespread community interest. Incorporating your ideas into the plan is a vital part of protecting the water resources we all depend on.

Drinking water in Yachats currently comes from Reedy Creek and Salmon Creek, tributaries of the Yachats River. To safeguard the City's water sources, the City has engaged with local stakeholders and technical experts in the development of the Drinking Water Protection Plan through a grant from the Oregon Health Authority.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you will be able to view a recording and provide feedback. To read the draft plan, join the Zoom meeting, or view the meeting recording, please visit the [Drinking Water Protection Plan page](#) on the City website.



Call For Visitor Center Volunteers

By: James Kerti

The Yachats Visitor Center is preparing to open its doors in the Yachats Commons to visitors in late May. We're looking for more volunteers to answer visitor questions and share their enthusiasm about Yachats.

If you've been feeling cooped up during this long pandemic winter and are itching to talk with people face to face in a safe environment again, this is a fun opportunity to meet people on their joyous vacations and feel like you're making a difference.

We expect that volunteer shifts will be three hours and would be looking for volunteers to be able to do at least one shift per week by late May.

For more information or to express your interest, email James@DiscoverYachats.org

In the meantime, we've continued to focus on advertising partnerships and our online presence. You can find us on Instagram or Facebook under

the name [discoveryachats](https://www.discoveryachats.org), and at our website www.DiscoverYachats.org

We also appreciate being able to collaborate with the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce, who recently reopened their building in the middle of town, and are looking forward to working alongside them in welcoming visitors to town safely this year.

EVEN THOUGH
CITY HALL IS CLOSED

just for you



Drive-thru is open

Stop by to ask questions, make payments, need forms or just to show your smiling face

Don't forget we have a secured Election Box and Payment Drop Box

Yachats Pantry

By Pam Luderitz

Starting this month, we will open the food pantry at the Presbyterian Church five days a week. The hours will be **Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.** We are able to do this thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. We will see how this goes and will let you know if it will continue.

We can always use donations of socks, blankets and sleeping bags. Everyone has been so generous and the people who use the pantry are so very grateful. We have fed so many families during this time.

You all have done so much for our community, it serves as a reminder of how we care for each other and how fortunate we are to live in such a place.

Parks & Commons

By: George Mazeika

Among the issues the Parks & Commons Commission has been discussing in the last few months has been the re-opening of the Commons and returning it to its function as a Community Center.

The Community lost access to an important social gathering place when we were forced to close the Commons. The Commission wants very much to have that space returned to Community usage as soon as conditions allow.

Part of that discussion revolves around questions of how well the Commons has functioned in the past as a Community Center. In order to answer those questions, we need input from the Community.

Whether you have been an attendee or organizer of classes and events at the Commons, or you are a newcomer to our Community and want to connect with your neighbors, we need your feedback and input in creating a Community gathering space.

Please let the Parks & Commons Commission know what your experiences have been in using the Commons, any problems you have had, and what types of activities you would like to see in the future.

Any ideas or suggestions should be directed to Dawn Keller, Parks & Commons Commission Chair. Her email is dawnkeller@gmail.com



Note from Code Enforcement

By Matt Frank

Happy Spring everyone!

Mother nature is beginning to give us some of those beautiful clear spring days that we love so much. With that said, we will also begin to see more visitors to our little corner of the Central Oregon Coast. With the uptick of visitors, it is important to remember that our streets are not the widest and sometimes even traveling down many of the streets in town can be a challenge.

Yachats Municipal Code Section 7.20.040 states: *No person may occupy or encroach on a public right-of-way without the permission of the City. The City grants permission to use rights-of-way by franchises, licenses and permits.* If there is a project that you have on your property or anything that might involve the obstruction of the right of way, please remember that you need to be granted permission from the City. Permits can be acquired at City Hall at no cost to your or your contractor.

If you observe someone blocking the right of way on any city street without having a permit displayed, please let us know by filing a complaint using the request tracker on the city website or by calling City Hall at 541-547-3565.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

**Interested in
joining a
Commission?**

Call us at 541-547-3565
or send us an email at
CityHall@yachatsmail.org.

**WE HAVE POSITIONS
OPEN IN:**

- Planning Commission
- Public Works & Streets
Commission
- Library Commission

**DON'T HAVE A
COMPUTER?**

JUST WANT TO LISTEN?

**Having Issues with
Video?**



zoom

**YOU CAN CALL IN TO ZOOM
WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE**

HOLD 0 UNTIL IT BECOMES A + SIGN
PRESS THE NUMBER BY YOUR LOCATION
ENTER MEETING ID NUMBER
ENTER THE MEETING PASSCODE FOLLOWED BY # SIGN

April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 City Council Work Session and Regular Meeting @ 930AM Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting @ 2PM	2	3
4	5	6 Parks & Commons Commission Meeting @ 2PM	7	8 Library Commission Meeting @ 10AM	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Planning Commission Work Session and Regular Meeting @ 2PM/3PM	21 Finance Committee Meeting @ 10AM City Council @ 2PM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



We're Here to Help
Just call us at 541.547.3565



To Attend the Zoom meetings, go to www.YachatsOregon.org and scroll down to **UPCOMING EVENTS** And click the Calendar event you are interested in.

As changes can occur, subscribe to **NOTIFY ME** for meeting changes and Agenda/Meeting Material availability

CITY COUNCIL

Monthly Work Session on 1st Thursday at 9:30 am
Regular Session on 3rd Wednesday at 2:00 pm

Leslie Vaaler, Mayor 541-547-5489
Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey 217-649-2339
Greg Scott 541-547-5470
Ann Stott 541-270-1915
Anthony Muirhead, President 541-961-3505

PLANNING COMMISSION

Monthly Work Session on 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 pm
Regular Session on 3rd Tuesday at 3:00 pm

Lance Bloch, Chair 541-547-5235
Loren Dickinson, Vice Chair 541-547-4559
Helen Anderson 520-245-2799
Jacqueline Danos 760-861-8508
Christine Orchard 541-270-1949
Ariana Carlson 541-272-0195
VACANT SEAT G

PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS COMMISSION

Monthly on 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 pm

Linn West, Chair 541-206-0140
Don Groth, Vice Chair 541-547-4302
Ron Urban 541-547-4299
Bob Bennett 541-547-3460
VACANT SEAT A
VACANT SEAT D
VACANT SEAT E

PARKS & COMMONS COMMISSION

Monthly on 1st Tuesday at 2:00 pm

Dawn Keller, Chair 520-990-6638
Linda Johnson, Vice Chair 541-547-3595
Michael Hempen 541-547-5471
Craig Berdie 612-597-5246
Dean Shrock 541-819-1817
Scott Gordon 541-547-3225
George Mazeika 541-991-0311

LIBRARY COMMISSION

Quarterly on 2nd Thursday at 10:00 am
(January, April, July, October)

David Rivinus, Chair 541-547-3048
Naomi Steenson, Co-Chair 503-739-0072
Nancy LaFever 458-546-9117
Marion Godfrey 503-704-0067
Viki West 458-546-9041

**To be considered for appointment,
commissioners are required to live primarily
inside the city limits and are required to attend at
least one meeting a month.**

**You can apply online at www.yachatsoregon.org.
For details call 541-547-3565.**

YACHATS CITY HALL AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT541-547-3565

Mailing Address: PO Box 345 541-547-3063 fax

501 Highway 101 N

HOURS: **City Hall Closed to the Public - Appt Only Until Further Notice**

800-735-2900 TDD

cityhall@yachatsmail.org

Interim City Manager..... Lee Elliott ext 102
Accounts Payable ext 103
Utility & All Other Kimmie Jackson ext 101
Admin..... Anita Sites..... ext 105
City Planner..... Katherine Guenther...Tue & Thur...ext 104
Code Enforcement.....(TCB) 541-336-5555
Community Svcs Coordinator Heather Hoen..... ext 106
.....City Mobile 541-272-4213
Water Treatment Plan Operator..... Rick McClung..... ext 123
Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator...Dave Buckwald ext 121
Utility Workers: Russ Roberts, Jeremy Mabe, Kevin Kentta

YACHATS COMMONS

Reservations: Facility Rentals on www.yachatsoregon.org

YACHATS PUBLIC LIBRARY.....541-547-3741

yachatspl@actionnet.net

560 W 7TH St / PO Box 817, Yachats, OR 97498

LITTLE LOG CHURCH AND MUSEUM..... 541-547-3976

328 W 3RD St / PO Box 712, Yachats, OR 97498

HOURS: **DUE TO COVID19 Closed to the Public**

YACHATS VISITORS CENTER..... 541-547-3530

James@discoverYachats.org

800-929-0477

441 Highway 101 N / PO Box 345, Yachats, OR 97498

HOURS: Available via phone: 10am – 4pm, Daily

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS

Cape Perpetua 541-547-3679
Central Lincoln PUD – outages and streetlights 866-484-3783
Dahl Disposal – garbage, recycling, dump 541-563-3888
Lincoln County Animal Shelter 541-265-6610
Lincoln County Sheriff 541-265-4231
Lincoln County Planning Department..... 541-265-4192
Lincoln County Roads 541-265-5747
ODOT – Highway 101 issues, dead animals on highway 888-275-6368
OR Utility Notification & Dig Safely..... 811
OR Department of Fish and Wildlife – bears, seals, wildlife, etc..... 541-867-4741
or 541-867-0300
Pioneer Telephone 888-968-3135
South Lincoln County Water District..... 541-547-3315
Yachats Memorial Cemetery – Barb Mead 541-547-3694
Yachats Post Office 541-547-3512
Yachats Rural Fire District (Non-Emergency) 541-547-3266
Yachats Youth and Families Program 541-547-4599



Don't forget to set up an account and subscribe to Notify Me to get timely information on what's going on in Yachats
On the City website: <https://www.yachatsoregon.org>